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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Free Territory of Trieste

DATE DISTR. 24 August 1951

SUBJECT Meetings of the Executive Committee of the
Pro-Cominform Communist Party

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1. Frequent meetings of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Free Territory of Trieste (PCTLT - pro-Cominform) were held by Vittorio Vidali, during the period from 28 May 1951 through 31 May 1951, with the object of discussing Party activities since 1 May 1951. Prior to this time, there had been an interruption in the normal activities of the Committee. The reasons for this interruption were: first, the festivities of 1 May, and secondly, the fact that some of the members had been in Italy for the purpose of holding and attending various meetings connected with the recent Italian elections.
2. The following subjects were discussed at the meetings of the Executive Committee of the PCTLT:
 - a. Pre-electoral activities
 - b. Workers' Cooperatives
 - c. Elections in Italy
 - d. Party activities on the outskirts of the British-United States Zone of the Free Territory of Trieste.
 - e. The Party's financial status.
3. Vittorio Vidali was present at all the meetings of the Executive Committee, as was the majority of the members.
4. Pre-electoral activities:
 - a. Reading of reports received by the Executive Committee from the section committees, concerning the pre-electoral activities realized to date by each section.

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- 2 -

25X1A

- b. Criticism of some sections for the inadequacy of their pre-electoral activities. Every section was urged to appoint committees for the purpose of furthering and coordinating the set-up of cell committees. The latter will undertake propaganda work within the cell, and will seek the support of Party sympathizers who are not actually members of the Communist Party.
- c. Reports to section leaders on the organizing of these cell committees.
- d. Reading of certain articles concerned with electoral propaganda, most of them taken from the propaganda booklets of the Italian Communist Party.

5. Workers' Cooperatives:

- a. Discussion of the Workers' Cooperatives lasted for two sittings, and was aimed at the clarification of points on which future propaganda, designed to bring about Communist control of the larger Workers' cooperative organization and a more profitable administration of the Free Territory of Trieste, will be based.
- b. Discussion of the Workers' Cooperatives is particularly important because the "Titoists" are openly urging their sympathizers to establish their own position, in order to gain the right to vote for the administrative council, at the next elections of the Workers' Cooperatives.
- c. On 4 June 1951, a three column article in Il Lavoratore explained to its readers who were the lawful administrators of these cooperatives. As an illustration of the importance the Communists attach to this question, in the same edition, the leading article was devoted to the problem of the Workers' Cooperatives. The article was signed by Giorgio Jaksetic.
- d. The Executive Committee has openly ordered all sections, and through them, the cells in each section, to see that all subscriptions are paid by members of the Workers' Cooperatives belonging to the Communist Party.

6. Elections in Italy: (sic)¹

- a. Complete satisfaction was expressed about the results obtained by the Italian Communist and Socialist Parties in Italy.
- b. Reading of notes taken by local Cominformist papers giving details on the votes obtained by the Italian Communist and Socialist Parties.
- c. Invitation to members to direct propaganda, so as to show that the percentage of votes obtained by the Italian Communist Party on 27 May 1951, was higher than that obtained in previous elections. The Christian Democrats have lost a considerable number of votes. Communes were lost by the Italian Socialist and Communist Parties through the Christian Democrats' trick of alliances, not through any actual voting strength of the latter group.

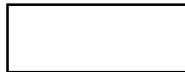
7. Party activities in the outskirts of the British-United States zone of the Free Territory of Trieste.

- a. At the Executive Committee meetings held recently, Vidali stated openly that as a result of a gradual campaign of propaganda and persuasion, the Titoists have won over to their side a large number of peasants who were formerly members of the Vidali Communist Party. Vidali, himself, has repeatedly ordered that Slav orators and propagandists be sent into areas on the outskirts of the Free Territory of Trieste, in order to refute the deceitful propaganda of Branko Babic. This propaganda depicts Vidali as the servant of the Italian Communist Party and Italy, and persuades its listeners to believe that Vidali is asking for the appointment of a governor of the Free Territory of Trieste, so that Trieste could be returned to Italy later by means of a plebiscite.

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- 3 -




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- b. The Opicina Section, in particular, is practically inactive because of a lack of members. Meetings of the PCTLT are scarcely ever held in this area. The population as a whole has grown apathetic. Cultural activities attract very few people. Some of the population has become Titoist, and the rest has become pro-American, as the result of the constant presence of American troops in this area. The women and girls prefer an American husband to a PCTLT membership card.

8. The Financial Status of the Communist Party of the Free Territory of Trieste.

- a. During the meetings of the Executive Committee, Vidali spoke of the Party's "disastrous" financial position. Although Vidali did not mention any figures, the informant stated that the Party has considerable outstanding debts. Section leaders were urged to start taking up collections and to promote dances and open air festivals, in order to use the proceeds to help balance the Party's accounts.

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- 1.  Comment: It is presumed that the remarks reportedly made at the PCTLT Executive Committee meetings in regard to the elections in Italy, concerned only the preliminary results of the elections in Northern and Central Italy, inasmuch as final elections throughout Italy had not terminated at the time of the above PCTLT Executive Committee sessions, nor were the final results known.

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